

OUTER COURT

COMMUNICATIONS



ISSUE

OUR LADY OF ENCHANTMENT, BOX 1366, NASHUA, NH 03061

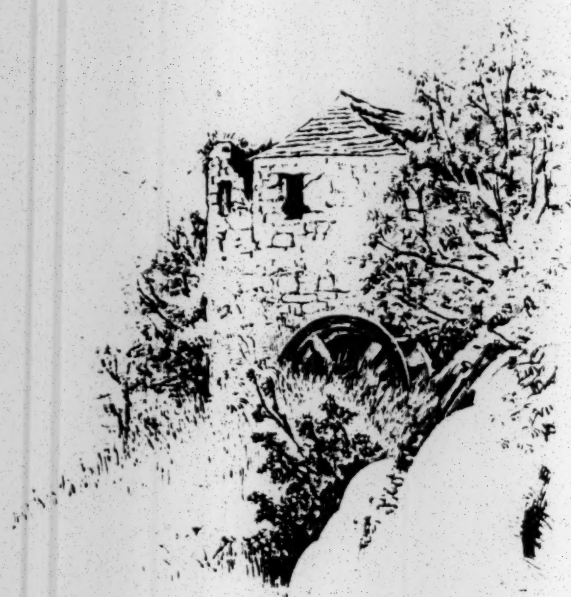
CHANGES & GROWTH

Yule and Imbolc begin seasons of regeneration, transformation and growth. We feel the first surges of life and begin to awaken and atune with the flow of Mother Nature. Equinox and Beltane bring forth the first buds of Spring and new life appears. We feel these transitions and align ourselves with them. Gradual change and conversion push us forward in an upward spiral of progress and development.

Over the past few years we have seen Our Lady Of Enchantment take on new meaning and importance. We feel this time is advantageous for some internal as well as external transitions. For our over 2,000 students, Outer Court Communications has become a personal link with their teachers and those of like mind. This is why we encourage members to share their poems, articles and items of interest as well as keeping us posted on current events, seminars and festivals.

At this time as you will notice there has been some revamping and rearrangement in style. With this Beltane issue we will now publish bi-monthly and be using this new format. As in the past please make all ads camera ready and type or print neatly items you wish to share. If you wish to have your articles returned please enclose SASE. We feel the new size will accomodate easier storage and help standardize our publications.

SABRINA



BELTANE/MAY EVE

We celebrate Beltane on the last night of April, May Eve. In Celtic tradition this is one of the most important festivals of the year. Beltane was the kindling of the need-fire. On May Eve all the fires in the community were extinguished, so the element of fire on that night was completely absent from the earth. In the morning at sunrise the community gathered on their sacred Beltane Hill and ritually kindled the fire.

The original meaning is 'Bel-fire' the fire of the Celtic god known as Bel, Beli, Balor, Balar or latinized Belenus. These names are traceable back to the Middle Eastern Baal, which simply means 'Lord.' Bel was the 'Bright One,' god of light and fire.

There are many folk traditions associated with this Great Day. In earlier times it was the women that presided over the activities. From the Beltane fire, each household took a burning brand back to their homes and relit their fire from the sacred flame. In those days one never let the fire in the hearth go out.

On this day, the May Queen was chosen from among the young women of the community to represent the Goddess. This festival reflects the transformation of the young woman-virgin aspect of the Goddess into the mother-Goddess. In the human sphere through sexuality the etheric forces are woven into worship of this festival. Symbolically, the Cernunnos aspect and Bel aspect can be seen as ways of visualizing the Great Father who impregnates the Great Mother. These are the two themes that dominate the May Eve/Beltane festival throughout Celtic and British folklore: FERTILITY & FIRE.

A feature of the Beltane festival in many lands was the jumping over the Beltane fire. Young people jumped over the fire to bring themselves husbands and wives; intending travelers to ensure a safe journey; pregnant women to ensure an easy delivery, and so on...Cattle were driven through the ashes of the fires or between two fires to ensure a good milk yield. The following day was as important to the herdsmen for they took the cattle off to the summer pastures or 'booleys' until Samhain. Beltane beginnings and Samhain endings; bringing together the cycles of death and rebirth.



A RITUAL FOR BELTANE

Beltane is an especially festive occasion, so we suggest you dress in a brightly colored robe and decorate the altar, as well as the ritual area, with lots of fresh flowers and signs of spring.

Preperation should begin early with the setting of the altar. For this you will need two white candles, salt, water, incense and some light-fruity wine. When all is in place take your ritual bath and annoint with a sweet fragrant oil (rose, honeysuckle or jasmine are nice). Go to the ritual area and light some incense as you meditate upon the meaning of the ritual. When you feel the time is right begin:

Light altar candles saying:

Greetings unto Thee
Lord and Lady of Life and Light
I beckon Thee
Lord and Lady
Be with me this Beltane night.

Create the sacred space by casting a circle with your athame. In a gesture of honor and respect honor the Ancient Ones as follows:

Old Ones, Ancient Ones
Mighty Ones
Guardians of the Four Elements
May life be quickened
As seasons awaken
Your Kingdom be hailed.
So Mote it Be!

Circumambulate the circle with each one of the four elements in offering.

Kneel before the altar and entone the following three times to the Goddess.

I pray Glorious Goddess of the Moon
As I stand twixt day and night
Your heavenly presence
be with me soon
As the darkness
Gives way to the light

Hail to Thee Cerridwen!

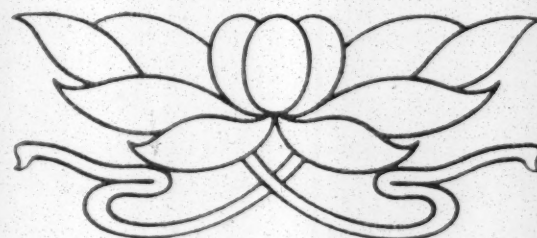
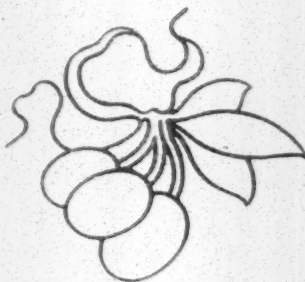
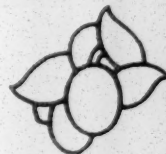
Holding up the Chalice, invoke the Lady to bless the wine.

My Lady, I do call Thee forth
For you are the Queen
You are bright & beautiful
Come be with me
Now death gives way to life
And all is made new again
Hail to Thee Cerridwen
Hail to Thee Cerridwen
Hail to Thee Cerridwen
So Mote It Be!

Drink some of the wine and then offer some to the Goddess. Now take time to meditate or work a path of new beginnings. Ground and center and give your final honor to the Goddess:

For it is before the Goddess
That all shall kneel
My Lady you are desire
This is your time
This is your season
Reign as the Three-Fold One
With love, wisdom and justice
Hail to Thee Cerridwen!

Acknowledge the Ancient Ones for their presence and banish the circle. The Rite has ended.



CHIRON A NEW PLANET FOR A NEW AGE

By Phoenix

On November 1, 1977 Charles Kowal, of Hale Observatories in California was examining some photographs taken of different sectors of the sky when he discovered an unknown planet orbiting between Saturn and Uranus. It is relatively small with a diameter of three to four hundred miles, and takes anywhere between forty six to fifty years to orbit the Sun. Mr. Kowal named this planet after the god Chiron.

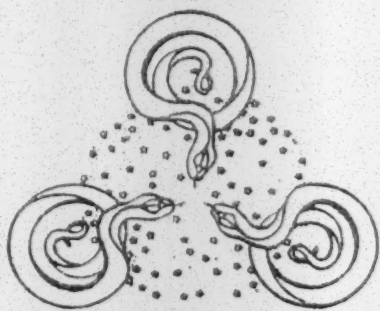
In trying to determine what type of influence Chiron represents astrologers approached the problem in three ways. First they began looking at the myths connected with Chiron as this may give clues. Second, by looking for any major changes which were occurring when it was discovered. Thirdly, astrologers began charting it within individual horoscopes.

Chiron was a Greek Centaur God who was a great teacher, physician, inventor and sage. He was often depicted as adopting children whom he would instruct in everything from medicine to hunting. Achilles, Apollo and Asklepois were all students of his. His particular skill was in healing through the use of herbs.

This myth seems important as it ties in with recent changes occurring in medicine. Such things as Wholistic health, accupuncture, psychosomatic illness, natural foods and medicines are all beginning to be accepted by the orthodox medical profession. It is almost as if there is a gradual movement toward seeing a unity between the body and mind, something which has been almost unknown to science until now.

When Chiron is used in birth charts it has been found to coincide with major changes in the persons life style, as well as health. Matters concerning teaching, counselling, healing, or arriving at some form of "wholeness" on any level all seem to stem from Chiron. Chiron also often appears to influence close relationships, usually indicating the basis behind these.

We are now standing on the cusp of the age of Aquarius and Chiron's discovery seems to herald this. Chiron bridges the gap between Saturn's materialistic view of life and Uranus' inspirational nature. Chiron serves to push that much further into the new age.



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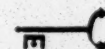
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GATHERINGS & SEMINARS

MAY



MAY 13-22: 1985 SETH WORLD CONFERENCE. Details, Austin Seth Center, PO Box 8380, Austin, TX 78713-8380 (512) 479-8909

MAY 23-27: RITES OF SPRING. New England. EarthSpirit Community, Box 365, Medford, MA 02155

MAY 24-June 2: SOMMARSTHING. California. Freya's Folk, 1040 Sutter #1, San Francisco, CA 94109

MAY 31-June 3: WIC-CAN FESTIVAL. North of Tronto, Canada. Janice Cardie/Paul Tobin, 550 Brimorton Dr. #114, Scarborough, ONT M1H 2E9

MAY-JUNE: BLENDING MATTER & SPIRIT. A Series of ten, two-three day intimate residential workshops celebrating the interphase between consciousness and physical reality. To be held on Martha's Vineyard Island. The East-West Medical Center, 1015 Chestnut St, Suite 1218, Phila, PA 19107

JUNE



JUNE 7-8: EARTH RENEWAL GATHERING. Native American Ways. Indianapolis, Ind. Details; J.A. Gonzalez, RR #1, Box 237, Magnolia, KY 42757

JUNE 7-9: THE WHEEL OF THE YEAR: Ritual Cycles & Techniques. Another Place, Mettanokit Community, Rt. 123 Greenville, NH 03048

JUNE 18-23: INTERNATIONAL PAGAN SPIRIT GATHERING. Wisconsin. For details contact Circle, Box 219, Mt. Horeb, WI 53572 (608) 924-2216

JUNE 20-23: GODDESS GATHERING. Ohio. Send SASE to Riversong, PO Box 1966, Youngstown, OH 44506

JUNE 22: SUMMER SOLSTICE CELEBRATION. Our Lady Of Enchantment annual summer rites. For more details, Seminary, Box 1366, Nashua, NH 03061

JUNE 21-23: SIXTH ANNUAL CELEBRATION OF SUMMER. Contact: Nexus International, P.O. Box 45061, Dallas, TX 75245

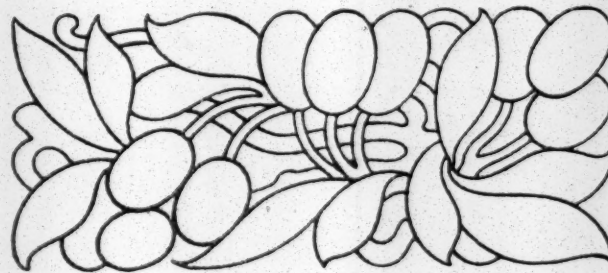
JULY



JULY 19-21: STARWOOD GATHERING. Ohio. Details contact A.C.E., 3130 Mayfield Rd., Cleveland Heights, OH 44118

JULY 19-22: GATHERING FOR LIFE ON EARTH. Ontario. Pagans for Peace, contact Sam Wagar, Dragonfly Farm, Lake St. Peter, Ontario, Canada, K0L 2K0

JULY 27: OICHE COISRICTHE (Sacred Night). Gaelic gathering and ritual. Gaelic Fest, PO Box 29166, Phila., PA 19127



PUBLICATIONS

CERNUNNOS NEWS: Monthly newsletter, Wicca/Pagan. Cernunnos News, 537 Jones #8821, San Francisco, CA 94104

CIRCLE NETWORK NEWS: Quarterly newspaper, Wicca/Pagan. Circle, P.O. Box 219, MT Horeb. WI 53572

COSMIC AWARENESS CRYSTAL: Quarterly newsletter. Cosmic Awareness Crystal, Box 1144, Aurora, CO 80040

COUNCIL OF MAGICKAL ARTS: Quarterly, Wiccan/Pagan journal. CMA, 5920 Bissonnet #113, Houston, TX 77081

OF LIKE MIND: Quarterly, women spiritual network. Of Like Mind, P.O. Box 6021, Madison, WI 53716

PAGAN UNITY NEWS: All traditions Pagan. Northern Way Inc., 6030 W. Roosevelt Rd., Oak Park, IL 60304

RUNESTONE: Journal of Odinis, quarterly publication. Asatru Free Assembly, Box 1832, Grass Valley, CA 95945

THUNDERBOW: Monthly newsletter with a good individual view point. Church Of Seven Arrows, 4385 Hoyt St. #201, Wheatridge, CO 80033

THE UNICORN: 8 times a year. Wiccan/Pagan. The rowan Tree, Box 8814, Minn., MN 55408

SPIRIT WITHIN NEWS: Prison ministry, published on an occasional basis. M.S.P. Pagan Group, Box A, Thomston, ME 04861



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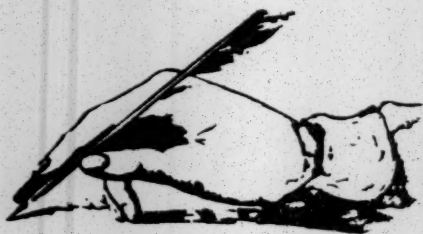
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BOOK REVIEWS

BELOVED EXILE -- Parke Godwin

For anyone who wondered what happened to Guenevere after Arthur's death (and did not care for Malory's sending her off to a convent), this book is perfect. It has everything, a self-reliant heroine, sympathetic villains-turned-heroes, comic relief. Godwin is writing a series of books on Roman Britain: Firelord, Beloved Exile, and the yet to be finished. Bright Rainbow, about St. Patrick. The time period is somewhere in the 6th or 7th century.

Godwin realizes that at the time, Christianity was not yet pervasive in the lives of the people. Guenevere is from a long line of Goddess-worshippers, and does not hesitate to use the 'old ways.' There is a particularly moving example of the actual Great Rite used to ensure good crops, where Guenevere is the Goddess and her Saxon lover-master is the God.

Fascinating both historically and literarily, this is a sequel every bit as great as the first. (This one was printed about two years after Firelord, so if you are, like me, intent on having the whole set, look for Bright Rainbow sometime in 1986).

THE LAST OF DANU'S CHILDREN -- Allison Rush

This is an enchanting fantasy novel dealing with, among other things, a house that is a door between worlds (and times); Cernunnos, John Dee, Edward Kelly, and three children. Kelly has decided that the elder girl shall be his lover since she bears a striking resemblance to the one he lost, and he is forcing Dr. Dee to aid him. The theme is trite, but Ms. Rush's treatment of it is anything but. (I must confess I had a hard time sleeping after reading her description of Cernunnos coming to the house to take the girl; every moving tree branch became antlers!) All in all, it is a very enjoyable read.

THE HORSE GODDESS -- Morgan Llewellyn

This is really a historical romance involving Epona and a Scythian prince, Kazhak. The other gods and goddesses are tribe members -- Kernunnos is the shapechanger, Goibban is the smith, Sirona and Rigantona are there. They are flesh and blood people with lives to be lived. Rudiments of ritual permeate the story; the direction in which Epona always turns, the fact that she uses her knife hand for certain actions and her cup hand for others, and never confuses the two. For her it is inborn. This is a love story, but don't be misled. It is also a good story.

Bronwen (581-G)

THE BLUE

The grey rocks almost glisten
silver by the blue-
a lake that mirrors the smile
above it.

A pond; running, rushing
below the lake-
sends a swirling mental refreshment.

The fish dance below the surface
their colorful scales nearly laugh
as they bite at the bugs.

But some bugs aren't meant for food
as a line hooks the dancers
and pulls them ashore.

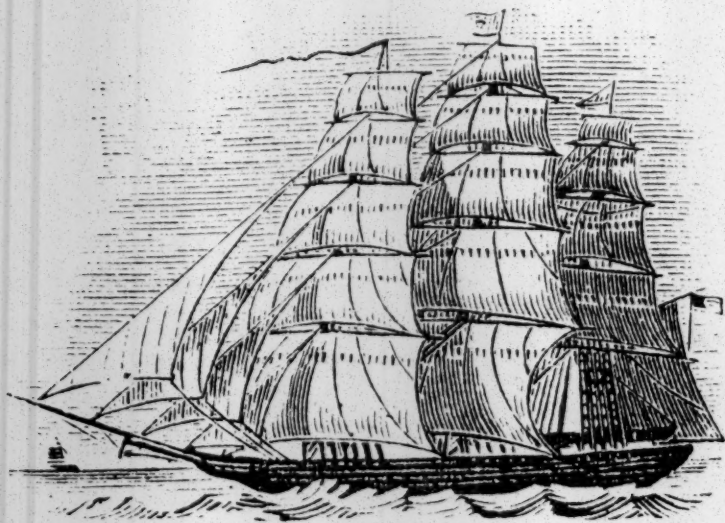
Ashore to the silver rocks
where we await to aline them
one by one,
ourselves to have a meal.

I bend by the blue to
thank the Lady of the Waters
and show Her we have not
interrupted the flow of the dance-
and She assents,
glittering across the bank.

The water bugs glide
as if their feet were skates;
and they pass by me as if
they would look to see
what sort of fare we caught.

The bright hot day
wanders methodically away-
so we must also go.
But I will be back for
the refreshment of swirling blue
and to sit again on the silver rocks.

By Donna Lyon Rhose



COMES THE DAWN

After awhile you learn the subtle
difference
Between holding a hand and
chaining a soul
And you learn that love doesn't mean
leaning
And company doesn't mean security,
And you begin to learn that kisses
aren't contracts
And presents aren't promises,
And you begin to accept your defeats
With your head up and your eyes open,
With the grace of an adult
not the grief of a child
And learn to build all your roads
On today because tomorrow's ground
Is too uncertain for plans,
and futures have a way
of falling down in mid-flight

After awhile you learn that even sunshine
Burns if you get too much
So you plant your garden and decorate
your own soul, instead of waiting
for someone to bring you flowers.

And you learn that you really can endure..
That you really are strong
And you really do have worth.

And you learn and learn....
With every goodbye, you learn.

by (unknown to us)

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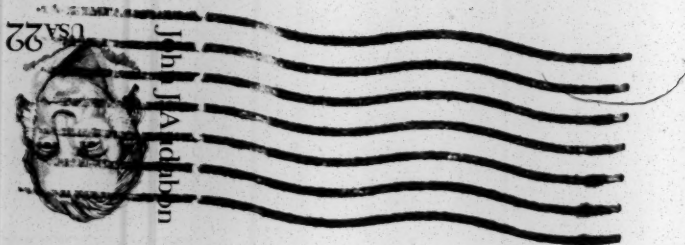
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